



Community Update

October 2011

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER ON CONSENT**

The EPA has entered into an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with the City of New York, and the five companies (Phelps Dodge, Texaco, BP, National Grid and ExxonMobil) known as the Newtown Creek Group to complete an investigation of Newtown Creek and its tributaries. The City and the Newtown Creek Group are committed to working cooperatively with and under the oversight of EPA as the project goes forward.

Any questions? Please call or email:

Wanda Ayala, EPA

Community Involvement Coordinator

212-637-3676 or 800-346-5009

[ayala.wanda@epa.gov](mailto:ayala.wanda@epa.gov)

Caroline Kwan, EPA

Remedial Project Manager

212-637-4275

[kwane.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kwane.caroline@epa.gov)

Nica Klaber, EPA

Remedial Project Manager

212-637-4309

[klaber.nica@epa.gov](mailto:klaber.nica@epa.gov)

Katie Hart-Brennan, Newtown Creek Group

Community Affairs

212-981-5241

[Katie\\_hart@dkcnews.com](mailto:Katie_hart@dkcnews.com)

Matt Maloney, NYC

Community Affairs

718-595-6605

[MMaloney@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:MMaloney@dep.nyc.gov)

#### **For Health Related Questions:**

Chris Doroski

Public Health Specialist

New York State Department of Health

800-458-1158 ext. 27860

[bee@health.state.ny.us](mailto:bee@health.state.ny.us)

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

We are committed to promoting communication between the public and all parties involved. Public involvement is critical to the success of any project. All community involvement activities will be designed to engage, inform and address public concerns. At the request of the community, a Community Advisory Group will be formed to provide a forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns about the cleanup process and other project-related issues. A facilitator will be provided to aid in the formation of this group.

#### **HISTORY OF THE SITE**

Since the 1800s, Newtown Creek has been a major New York City industrial waterway. By the early 1900s the creek's shores were host to oil refineries, metal and chemical plants, manufactured gas plants, municipal and industrial discharge pipes, shipping and barging, and coal handling and storage facilities.

Today, there are more than 1,500 businesses located within a quarter mile of the creek. Current operations along Newtown Creek and its tributaries include a cement plant, scrap yard, beverage distributor, construction supply company, recycling plant for used concrete, plumbing fixture show room, dry ice manufacturer, petroleum bulk storage facilities, energy infrastructure, municipal and industrial discharge pipes and the Newtown Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant. Throughout the history of Newtown Creek, various operations along this water body have resulted in discharges that impacted the creek environment.



# EPA Starts Remedial Investigation at Newtown Creek

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

EPA invites you to attend a series of public information meetings to discuss the next steps at the Newtown Creek site. These meetings will be held as follows:

### Brooklyn:

Date: October 25, 2011

St. Nicks Alliance

2 Kingsland Avenue

Arts @ Renaissance at the Garden Level

2:00 to 4:00 pm

and

7:00 to 9:00 pm

### Queens:

Date: October 27, 2011

La Guardia Community College

31-10 Thomson Avenue

Long Island City

Conference Room E-500

2:00 to 4:00 pm

and

7:00 to 9:00 pm

## INFORMATION REPOSITORY

An information repository is a record storage area at or near a Superfund site that contains documents pertaining to the site, as well as general Superfund program information.

EPA is in the process of establishing two information repositories where documents related to the site can be viewed. At present, documents can be viewed at the **Brooklyn Public Library at Norman Avenue & Leonard Street in Brooklyn (718-349-8504)**. An additional repository will be established in Queens in the upcoming weeks.

## FIRST PHASE OF NEWTOWN CREEK FIELD WORK WILL BEGIN FALL 2011

The first phase of the remedial investigation field work is necessary to determine the full extent of the contamination in Newtown Creek and to calculate human and ecological risks. Field work is scheduled to begin at the site in Fall 2011. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entered into an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC) with the City of New York and the five companies (Phelps Dodge, Texaco, BP, National Grid and ExxonMobil) known as the Newtown Creek Group to complete a comprehensive study of Newtown Creek and its tributaries. Field activities will include a bathymetric (creek bottom) survey; a side-scan sonar survey; a magnetometer survey; a shoreline assessment and an aerial survey. Additional field work is planned after the completion and review of these efforts.

## WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP?

The first step of the process is to finalize several supplemental plans to the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan (Work Plan) that are needed so that the sampling described in the Work Plan, which is part of the AOC, can begin. The Work Plan describes the activities that need to be performed to conduct the Remedial Investigation of the creek and its tributaries (collectively called the "Study Area") for the purpose of providing scientific data on which remedial decisions will be based. The Work Plan also provides a summary of currently available information on environmental conditions that may impact the Study Area, as well as specific activities that will be performed during the first phase of field work.